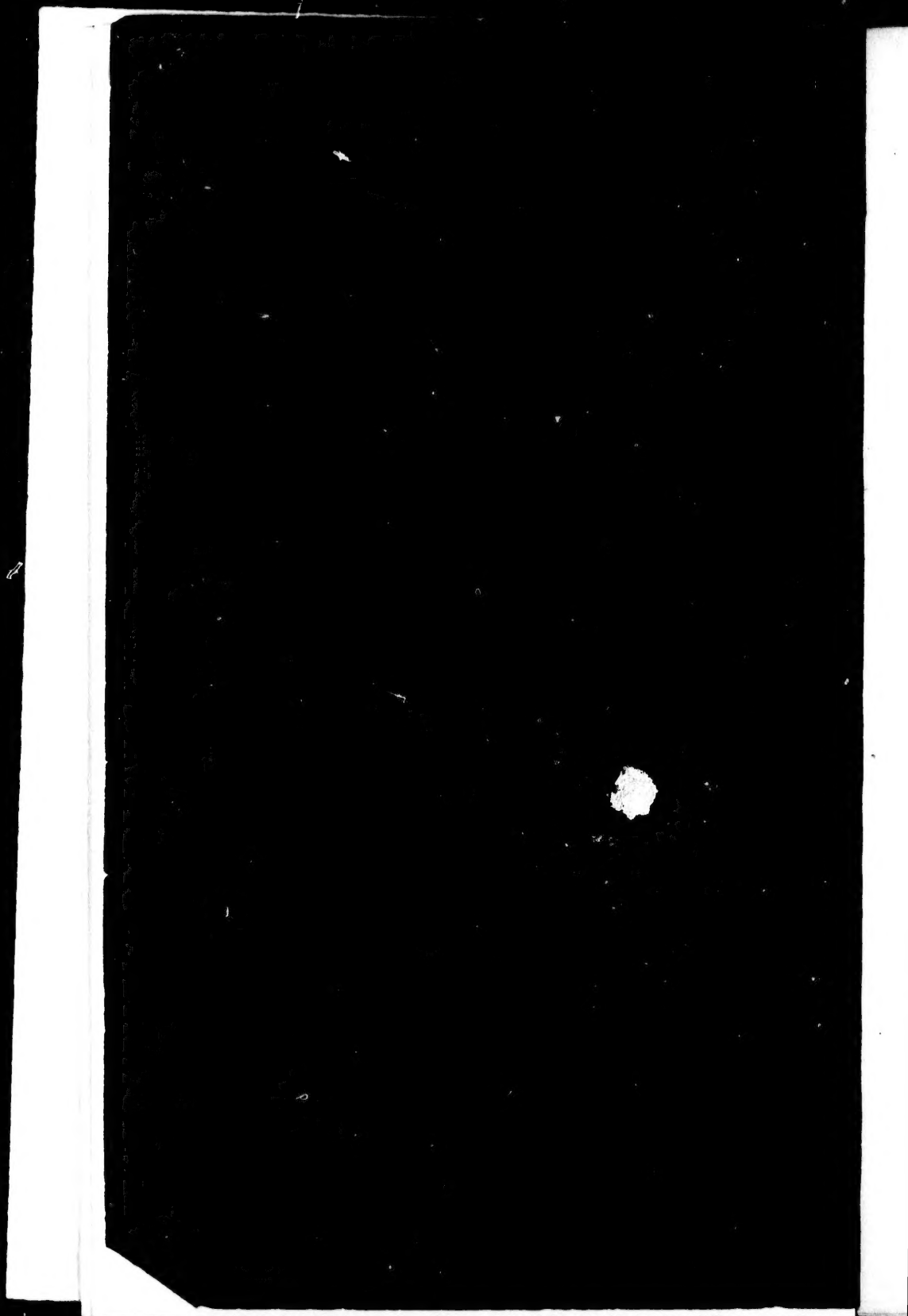




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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

OF

ST. MARK'S CHURCH,

NIAGARA,

1852.



NIAGARA ;

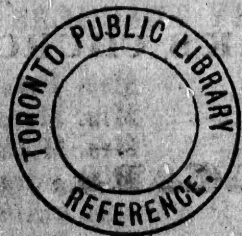
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SUNDAY SCHOOL

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DIRECTOR

THE RECTOR OF ST. MARK'S.

SUPERINTENDENT :

JOHN POWELL, Esq.

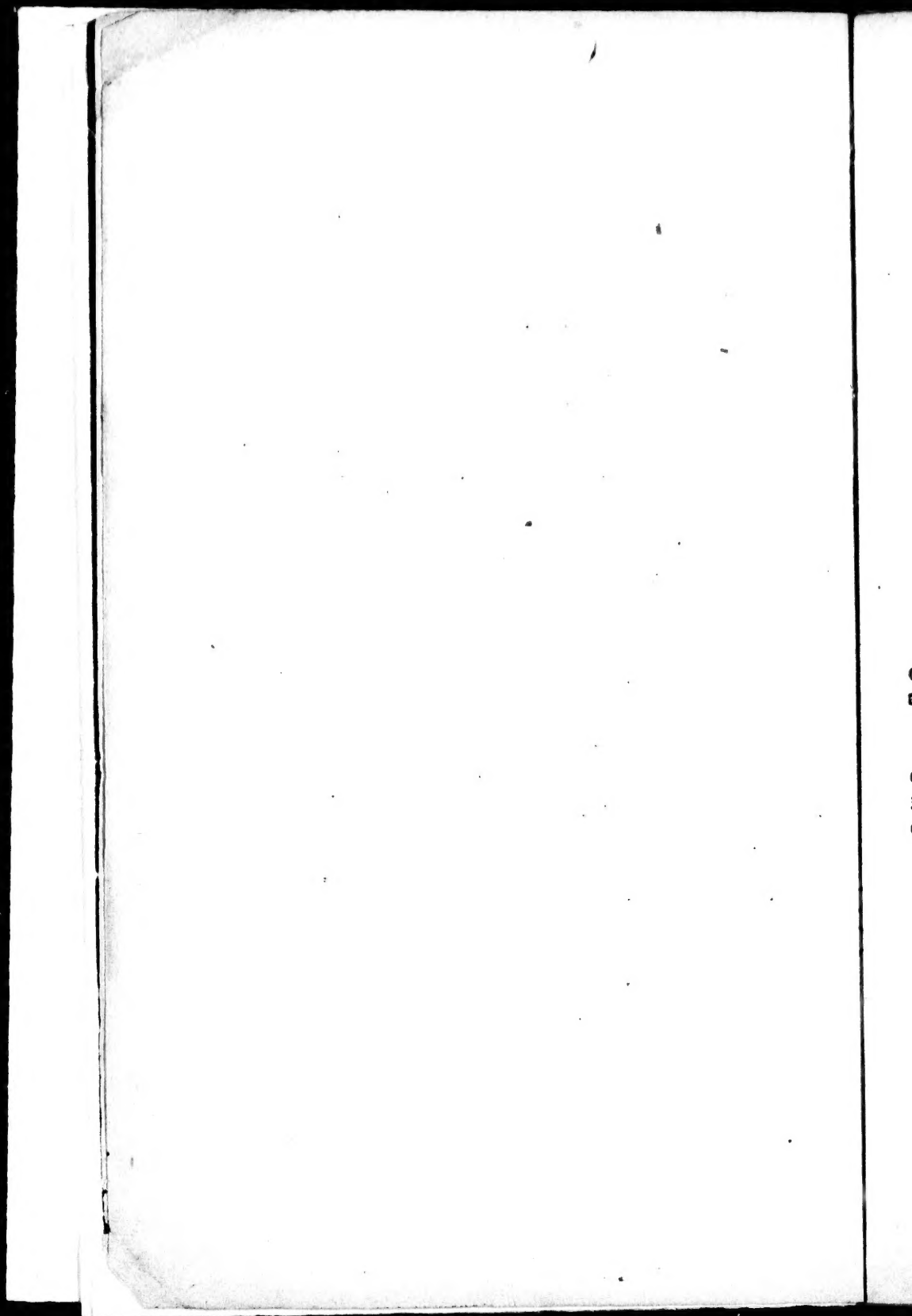
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT :

MRS. CREEN:

VOLUNTARY TEACHERS :

Col. Kingemill,
Lt. Col. Taylor,
Capt. Smith,
I. W. Ball, Esq.
L. W. Mercer, Esq.
Mr. Wm. Senior,
Mr. Wm. Dickson,
Mr. Murray Powell,
Mr. Charles F. Ball,
Mr. Innes,
Mr. T. Percival,
Mr. Geale,
Mrs. Smith,
Mrs. Lyons,

Mrs. Fraser,
Mrs. Mercer,
Mrs. Moffat,
Miss Burgees;
Miss Fallon,
Miss Lyons,
Miss Kingemill,
Miss Campbell,
Miss M. Ball,
Miss McCartney,
Miss Creen,
Miss Morgan,
Miss Dority.



CONSTITUTION

AND

REGULATIONS.



I. THE SCHOOL shall be under the Management of a Director, Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, and Voluntary Teachers.

II. The DIRECTOR shall be the Clergyman having charge of the Parish, who shall direct the Teachers in their duty, catechise the children, and examine the classes.

III. The SUPERINTENDENT, who shall be chosen by the Director, shall form the School into classes, and assign them to the charge of Teachers. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent or Deputy Superintendent to examine and class scholars on their admission, to arrange the classes in proper number, and change or transfer the children in the classes, as may be required from time to time ; to render advice and assistance to the Teachers, in the ordering and instruction of their respective classes ; to admonish

refractory scholars ; and to preside and preserve order, by exercising a general supervision of the School.

IV. The DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT shall assist the Superintendent, and shall also be chosen by the Director.

V: Each TEACHER shall be provided with a *Roll* and *Class-book*, the mode of making the entries into which shall be apparent upon the face of the book itself, which shall be open to the inspection of the Director or Superintendent at any time.



GENERAL SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION AND MODE OF CONDUCTING THE SCHOOL.

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I. ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTION.--The Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments ; the Catechism, broken and with the *Bristol* explanation and Scripture references ; Collects and Gospel of the Day, easy Hymns, and Scripture Lessons from the New Testament, shall be taught in due course and order, according to the capacity and progress of the children.

II. An INFANT CLASS of little children, and children unable to read, shall form a division by themselves, and have a Teacher or Teachers expressly appointed for them.

III. BIBLE CLASSES shall be set apart into a separate Division, which shall be formed of young persons of riper years and understanding desirous of improvement and instruction, by a course of Scripture reading; who shall also be made familiar with the Scripture references and Bristol explanation of the Church Catechism.

These classes will require the aid of judicious and experienced Teachers, well instructed in the Word of God, and the chief truths and principles of the Christian religion, as laid down and explained in the Bristol Catechism.

Teachers may be selected from those classes by the Director, when recommended by the Master or Teacher having charge of their instruction, as being desirous and qualified to become Teachers, and their services made available in the Sunday School, when required,

IV. The *first* lesson of every class shall consist of repetitions by the scholars of whatever they have been required to commit to memory during the preceding week; and one hour shall be allowed for the teaching and course of lessons in all the classes in the School,

V. The *hour* of convening the School shall be punctually observed, viz: *at a quarter past nine o'clock*. The *first* ten minutes shall be allowed for opening the School, beginning with the Morning Hymn and Sentences, and Prayer, (which may be offered up by the Superintendent, in the absence of the Director,) for which, as well as for the Prayer at the dismissal of the School, proper forms are provided in the Bristol Sunday School Liturgy, which has

been in use, and which should be in the hands of the Teachers.

VI. In all cases, any difference of opinion arising between the Teachers and Superintendent shall be at once referred to the Director for adjustment, and his decision shall be final.

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REPORTS shall be received from the Teachers, either verbally or in writing, at the monthly meetings of the Teachers, when the Director shall preside; and any questions or difficulties, not of a controversial tendency, may be given in, in writing, to be resolved and answered at the subsequent meeting.



SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

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I. THE LIBRARY shall be open every Sunday *immediately before* the opening and *after* the closing of the School, and the Superintendent shall keep a Register, with a *Catalogue* prefixed, which shall show *when* and to *whom* each book is lent, and when *returned*. The books shall be *numbered* both *within* and on the *cover*, beginning with No. 1 and proceeding in regular series till the highest number is reached; the numeration being simply regulated by the succession in which the books come to hand, without regard to any system of classification. In the *Catalogue*, the *number* of each book will be placed in a

column opposite to the title, and thus in the Register the entry of the No. *lent*, alone will be sufficient.

The same simple mode of entry is to be adopted by the Teachers, in whose *Class-books* a *column* is to be appropriated for the entry of *Library Books lent*. The return of the book to be specified by a stroke passed through the number.

II. No scholar shall have more than *one book* nor more than *two tracts* at one time ; and no fresh issue shall be made of any book or tract till those previously issued shall have been returned.

III. The books shall be *immediately* issued by the Superintendent to the Teachers only, whether for their *own* use or that of the scholars, and the Teachers shall be *accountable* for *returning* them.

The Teachers shall have the privilege of taking home from the Teachers' Library two books, for their private reading, or any books or tracts from the Children's Library which they may wish to read.

VI. In the event of the *loss* of any of the books or *damage* done to them, the Superintendent shall impose a *small fine*, which, however, he shall have the discretion of remitting when the case seems to require indulgence. And if such fine, when exacted, should not be paid, no book or tract shall be issued to the defaulter for a term proportioned to the value of that which has been lost or damaged.

VII. *All* the books shall be *called in twice* a year, viz : in the first week of April and the first week of October, when the whole stock shall be compared with the Catalogue, and all deficiencies shall be reported to the Director.

GENERAL HINTS TO THE VOLUNTARY TEACHERS.

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The foregoing Rules are perhaps sufficiently explicit to prevent Teachers from being at a loss in any part of their duty. The addition, however, of a few suggestions, chiefly of a general nature, may not be wholly uncalled for.

1. PUNCTUALITY AND ORDER.

It is exceedingly desirable that the Teachers should observe the strictest punctuality in their attendance at the appointed hour, and it is recommended that they should assemble a few minutes before it.

They should also note the punctuality of the children, and after forming their classes, and commencing their instruction, sedulously enforce order and forbearance from all but necessary speaking.

It is strongly recommended to Teachers, that they should make themselves familiar with the lessons which are to be taught in their classes—especially the Gospel and Collect of the day—and the Scripture Reading, which may be studied and prepared before hand, with help of a good Commentary. “Dodridge’s Expositor,” “Barnes’ Notes,” and “Bishop Sumner’s Practical Annotations on the Gospels and the Acts,” will be found excellent helps. A printed

series of *questions* on each of the four Gospels and the Acts may be had, and will be found useful.

It is also earnestly recommended that Teachers will endeavor to supply their place, when they find that they shall have occasion to be absent from their classes.

2. MEANS OF SECURING THE REGULAR ATTENDANCE OF THE CHILDREN.

Nothing can be more important to the prosperity of a Sunday School than the regular, and as far as possible, unfailing attendance of the children. And to promote this object, it will be found particularly useful that the Teachers should take the trouble of visiting the absentees at their own homes to ascertain the cause of absence, and to exhort to regularity.

The concern which is thus manifested for the improvement of the scholars produces a sentiment of thankfulness on the part of the latter and their friends, diffuses an increased conviction of the value of the Institution, and excites an additional interest respecting it. It preserves and strengthens that feeling of connection between the Teacher and the scholar, upon which much of the efficiency of a Sunday School depends.

The duty of a Sunday School Teacher is, indeed, one which requires much consideration, perseverance and zeal, but it is also one of a most interesting nature; and it may be hoped that those who engage in it will feel its importance, and the benefits it is capable of producing to be such as to sweeten the labor, and compensate all the difficulties of the task.

There is no employment in which they may hope more directly to be made instruments of promoting the glory of God, and the advancement of his Kingdom upon earth. They may well be called subordinate laborers in the field of the gospel, through whose exertions the ground is prepared for the reception of the "seed of the word" which is "able to save souls." The blessings are, in fact, incalculable which may flow from Sunday Schools conducted with judgment and assiduity, and in the true spirit of love to God and man. Not only may those little ones, whom Christ made the objects of his attention and care, be rescued from the snares of Satan, and set forward in the way to heaven—not only may the immediate parties engaged, as well as the families to which both Teachers and scholars belong, imbibe the "savour of life" by means of the knowledge thus diffused and the interest excited upon the subject of practical religion—not only may the "hearts of the children be turned to the fathers, and the hearts of the fathers to the children," but the blessings may be transmitted to their children's children through successive generations.

With the hopes of being instrumental in producing such effects, none surely should allow themselves to be weary in well doing; but remember that in due season they will reap, if they faint not, and "he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal."

THOMAS CREEN, *Rector.*

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, }
Niagara, June 12th, 1852. }

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